

JCOMM SHIP OBSERVATIONS TEAM

Terms of Reference

Generic

1. Review and analyse requirements for ship-based observational data expressed by the WWW, WCP, WCRP, GOOS, GCOS and in support of marine services, and coordinate actions to implement and maintain the networks to satisfy these requirements;
2. Review marine telecommunications facilities and procedures for observational data collection, as well as technology and techniques for data processing and transmission, and propose actions as necessary for improvements and enhanced application;
3. Coordinate PMO/ship greeting operations globally, propose actions to enhance PMO standards and operations, and contribute as required to PMO training;
4. Review, maintain and update as necessary technical guidance material relating to ship observations and PMOs;
5. Liaise and coordinate as necessary with other JCOMM Programme Areas and expert teams, in particular those relating to maritime safety services, marine climatology and ocean data management; in addition, liaise and coordinate with CBS, WCRP, GOOS and GCOS regarding the contribution of ship based observations to their respective programmes;
6. Establish, as necessary, *ad hoc* task teams to address specific issues such as: accuracy of hardware and software used on board ship; data quality control procedures for shipboard instrumentation; specifications for modifications to data transmission codes and general data formats;
7. Participate in planning activities of appropriate observing system experiments and major international research programmes as the specialist group on ship based observations;

SOOP Implementation Panel

1. Review, recommend on and, as necessary, coordinate the implementation of specialized shipboard instrumentation and observing practices;
2. Coordinate the exchange of technical information on equipment and expendable development, functionality, reliability and accuracy;
3. Ensure the distribution of available programme resources to ships to meet the agreed sampling strategy in the most efficient way;
4. Ensure the transmission of low resolution data in real time from participating ships; ensure that delayed more high resolution data are checked and distributed in a timely manner to data processing centres;
5. Maintain, through the SOOP Coordinator, appropriate inventories, monitoring reports and analyses, and information exchange facilities;
6. Provide general guidance to the coordinator in his support for the SOOP;

ASAP Panel

1. Coordinate the overall implementation of the ASAP, including recommending routes and monitoring the overall performance of the programme, both operationally and in respect of the quality of the ASAP system data processing;
2. As may be required by some members, arrange for and use funds and contributions in kind needed for the procurement, implementation and

- operation of ASAP systems and for the promotion and expansion of the programme;
3. Carry out other activities as agreed upon by participating members to implement and operate ASAP and to promote and expand the programme internationally;
 4. Prepare annually a report on the status of ASAP operations, data availability and data quality;

VOS panel

1. Review, recommend on and coordinate the implementation of new and improved specialized shipboard instrumentation, siting and observing practices;
2. Support the development and maintenance of the VOSCLim Project;
3. Develop and implement activities to enhance ship recruitment, including promotional brochures, training videos, etc.

Membership

Chairman selected by JCOMM

Operators of VOS, SOOP and ASAP

Representatives of monitoring centres, data management centres and bodies

Representatives of Inmarsat and other communications satellites

Representatives of manufacturers as appropriate

Representatives of science advisory bodies and users as appropriate